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Sessional Committee I

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Draft agreed conclusions

1. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the outcome of its Mid-term Global Review have recommended policies and measures at the national and international levels to address the danger of further marginalization of these countries in the international trading system. Also, the Ninth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development outlined actions to promote integration of LDCs into the rapidly globalizing and liberalizing world economy. In elaborating these measures, special attention was given to help enabling LDCs to maximise their potential opportunities and minimizing possible risks arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements (URAs).

2. Strengthening the capacity of the LDCs to reap the potential benefits from the URAs would entail building up their supply capacities to produce exportable goods and services on a competitive basis. This, in turn, will require, as pointed out by the outcomes of the Mid-term Global Review and UNCTAD IX, national actions and longer-term bilateral and multilateral assistance focusing on improving policies conducive to trade creation and overcoming supply-side impediments.

3. In this regard, the Trade and Development Board reaffirms the outcomes of the Mid-term Global Review and UNCTAD IX as they relate to LDCs' trade and trade-related issues.

4. The outcome of UNCTAD IX, at para 83, states that: "UNCTAD's work should be geared to the special needs of developing countries, particularly the LDCs, and focus on development issues. It should be action-oriented and provide guidance on national policies and on an enabling environment conducive to trade and development". Integration of LDCs into the world economy and the international trading system would entail the development of export capacities to produce tradeable goods and services on a competitive basis. In this regard, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD is encouraged to elaborate UNCTAD-wide integrated country-level programmes for selected LDCs by pooling the contributions of its Divisions, in accordance with the priorities identified by the LDCs concerned.

5. UNCTAD should closely collaborate and coordinate with the concerned organizations, such as WTO, ITC, World Bank, IMF, UNDP, UNIDO and other development organizations in the design and implementation of the above activities to ensure coherence in policy advice and support.

6. The Trade and Development Board asked the secretariat and the Commissions, in carrying out their tasks, to pay particular attention to the special needs of the LDCs. In presenting their reports to the TDB, the Commissions should, wherever possible, seek to highlight the results of particular relevance to the LDCs.

7. The Trade and Development Board also asked the enlarged Bureau to consider the future method of work of the TDB in conducting annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs in the 1990s with a view to facilitating an in-depth discussion of this item in the light of the priorities established by UNCTAD IX.